

REMARKS

Applicants have herein included the Amendments and comments that were previously submitted after the Final Rejection but never acknowledged. Applicants note that while the Amendment After Final was submitted within two months of the Final Office Action Applicants did not receive an Advisory Action as required. Accordingly, Applicants filed a petition for extension of time and a Notice of Appeal to keep the application alive on November 14, 2003. Further, a second copy of the Amendment After Final was submitted since the first had apparently been lost. Applicants inquired as to the status of the application beginning on April 16, 2004 and learned that the Examiner had been changed and upon contacting the Examiner learned that the Examiner would be on vacation until on or about May 6, 2004. Upon contacting Examiner Saeed after May 10, 2004, Examiner Saeed stated that he could not provide an Advisory Action or allow the case thus necessitating the filing of the accompanying RCE. Thus, this RCE is filed even though Applicants timely filed an Amendment After Final that was not responded to in the instant application.

As a preliminary note Applicants request acknowledgment of the claim of priority made in the Declaration and the Preliminary Amendment.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments hereinabove, reconsideration of the Final Office Action mailed on May 16, 2003 and allowance of the claims.

Applicants note that the Information Disclosure Statements filed on **February 12, 2002 and April 9, 2003** have not been acknowledged. **Applicants request acknowledgment thereof.** It is requested that the references listed on that previously submitted form PTO-FB-A820 be included in the "References Cited" portion of any patent issuing on this application (M.P.E.P. 1302.12).

On review of the instant application as filed Applicants Attorney noted that the Drawing was included as a numbered page (page 167) of the specification instead of as a separate Drawing Sheet. Applicants' attorney apologizes for this error.

Applicants have herein deleted Figures 1 and 2 (page 167) from the specification. In addition, Applicants have submitted Figures 1 and 2 as a formal